SUBJECT NO. 410.

A Town Magistrate for Shimoga.

Messrs. K. Sankaranarayana Rao, Shimoga Municipality, and S. R. Balakrishna Rao, Nagar Sabha.

Summary of discussion.—The appointment of a Stationary Magistrate at Shimoga is necessary, as the Treasury Assistant Commissioner who is also the Vice-President of the Municipality cannot devote sufficient time to criminal work without prejudice to his other duties.

Reply of Government.—If an additional officer is wanted, the municipality will have to pay for him.

SUBJECT NO. 411.

Re-adjustment of civil jurisdiction.

Messrs. S. R. Balakrishna Rao, Nagar Sabha, and K. Sankaranarayana Rao, Shimoga Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—The civil jurisdiction over the taluks of Koppa and Tarikere may be taken from the Munsiff of Chikmagalur and transferred to the Subordinate Judge or Munsiff of Shimoga. It seems that the people of Koppa have memorialised Government in this matter. Tarikere Taluk is connected with Shimoga by rail, and it is more convenient and less costly for the people of that taluk to go to Shimoga than to Chikmagalur.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT NO. 412.

The Bhadra Project.

Messrs. K. Sankaranarayana Rao, Shimoga Municipality, Nadig Shankarappa, Shimoga Taluk and S. R. Balakrishna Rao, Nagar Sabha.

Summary of discussion.—This project may be sanctioned early, in view of the famine conditions appearing almost every year. The tracts to be traversed by the channels do not get copious rainfall in either of the monsoons, and it is desirable that the work is taken up at once.

Reply of Government.—Noted for consideration when funds permit. It is worth while considering why a joint stock company should not be started for executing the project.

SUBJECT NO. 413.

The Sulekere tank and its channels.

Mr. K. Samaiengar, Channagiri Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(1) It is very desirable that the major irrigation works containing extensive channels, *e. g.*, the Marikanave and Boranakanave reservoirs and the Sulekere tank should be under the control of the Public Works Department. The sluices and channels of these reservoirs have to be kept in order by persons possessing professional knowledge. As matters stand, when anything gets out of order, the correspondence must start from the nala manegar and reach the Deputy Commissioner through the proper official channel and a reference has to be made to the Executive Engineer who has to refer the matter to the Sub-Divisional Officer and it must finally reach the sub-overseer or the maistry to do the needful. Some more time is required for the preparation of the estimate and getting it sanctioned. Much time is thus lost in correspondence and meanwhile the damage that has already occurred increases in dimensions. The sufferer ultimately is the kandayam paying ryot. Steps may be taken to afford the necessary remedy by transferring the control of the Sulekere tank to the Public Works Department.

(2) Owing to the restoration of several breached tanks which used to supply water to the hallas flowing into this tank, it does not now receive its former usual supply of water and gets dry now and then. Considering the extensive cultivation under this tank, it is desirable to have a perennial supply of water in it and it is suggested that the Chief Engineer may kindly investigate the possibility of feeding it by a channel drawn from a perennial river.

Reply of Government.—The Public Works Department will be required to examine the tank and the channels thoroughly and put them in order. If the ryots are willing to pay a cess there is no objection to transferring the maintenance to the P. W. Department.

SUBJECT No. 414.

Silt clearing in the Sulekere channels.

Mr. K. Shamaiengar, Channagiri Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The subject of clearing silt in the Sulekere channels has been long under correspondence. The ryots in the locality have been refusing to do the work as being against mamool. The local conditions are not clearly understood by some officers in dealing with the case. The unwillingness of the ryots to do the annual maintenance work of these channels is due to the following reasons :—

(1) The work was not done at any time hitherto.

(2) Owing to the sparsity of population, the full atchkat of the tank and its channels is not cultivated, but only some portions of it here and there. The ryots cannot be made responsible for the condition of channels where they have no interest. The total extent of land that could be irrigated from the tank and the channels is about 6,000 acres. Of these, only 2,000 acres are under cultivation. It is not fair to expect these ryots to maintain the entire length of the channels. If necessary, their liability may be limited to such portions of the channels as actually pass through their lands. The ryots are willing to pay a cess if only the cost of maintaining the channels actually irrigating the land under cultivation is recovered from them.

(3) Ordinarily lands are liable only to dry assessment. A higher rate is charged thereon only when facilities are afforded by Government for growing wet crops by supplying water. The wet rate charged here is much higher than can be considered reasonable. In addition to this wet rate, the irrigation cess is also levied at one anna per rupee.

(4) Previous to the introduction of the survey, assessment was levied only when the tank received its supply of water and it used to be remitted when the supply failed. In consideration of this facility the ryots used to